

SAFE Coalition Semi-Annual Report

Semi-Annual Report of SAFE Coalition Activities and Accomplishments
 October 1, 2016 to March 31, 2017



THE COALITION
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SAFE Coalition

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Overview of Accomplishments

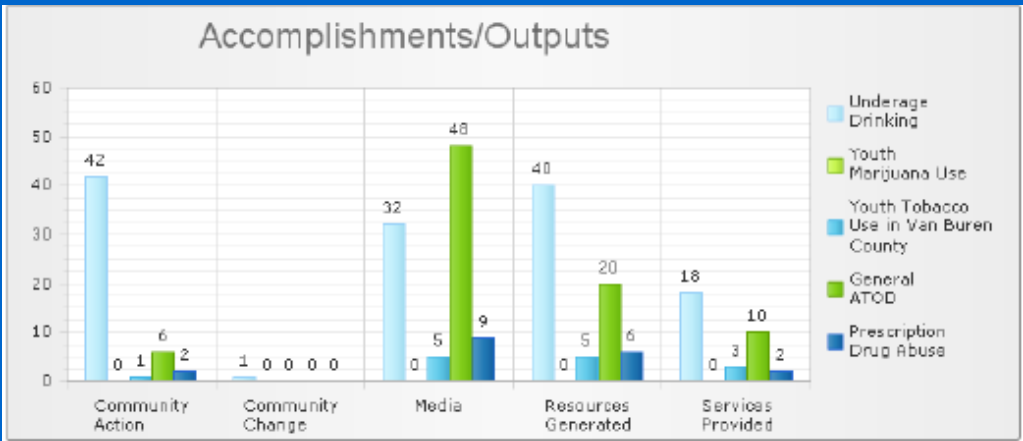
During the available data period the coalition has generated 250 accomplishments/outputs addressing a broad range of problems. Media was the most common output at 37.6%. The most commonly addressed problem was underage drinking (53.2%). The coalition implemented 53 organizational improvements.

OUR VISION

Van Buren County SAFE Coalition seeks to stimulate community involvement to promote responsible behaviors, among youth and adults leading to SAFE and healthy communities.

COALITION EFFORTS

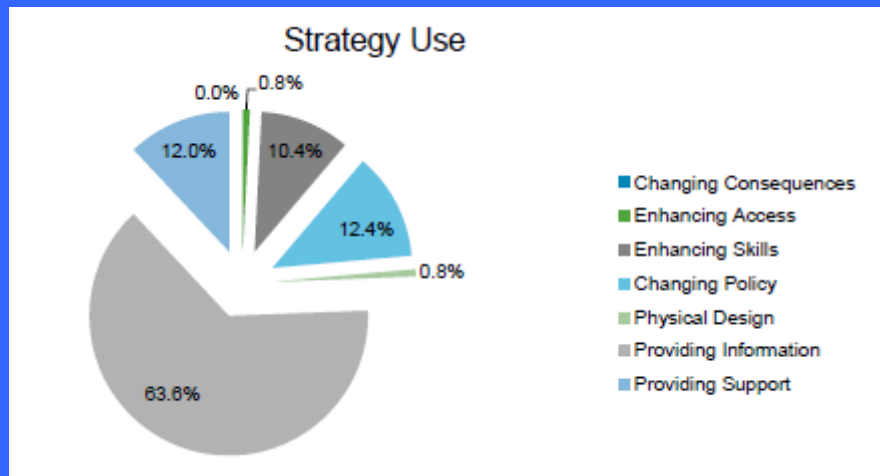
Van Buren County SAFE Coalition is actively working to reduce substance use/abuse in Van Buren County, IA. The coalition has committed to address issues related to marijuana use, prescription drug abuse, underage drinking, youth tobacco use, and general alcohol, tobacco and other drug (ATOD) use. This report covers activities from October 1, 2016 through March 31, 2017 available in Reaching Software data collection system as well as information available through observation. Outcome analyses are not included in this semi-annual summary of efforts, nor are key events.



Community Action

As coalitions are uniquely designed to create change, they must take action to create these changes in policy, program and practice. Community actions must be related to a subsequent community change. These actions must be facilitated by or on behalf of the coalition and must be aimed at the issues the coalition is working on. The coalition reported 51 community actions focusing on four of their five target problems.

- Advocacy efforts around developing and enacting a local Social Host Ordinance
- Advocacy efforts around implementing alcohol policies at private facilities and public places
- Development of youth led media campaign
- Advocacy to implement tobacco compliance checks in Van Buren County
- Recruitment of new coalition members
- Efforts to expand LifeSkills implementation to new locations



Areas of Success

The coalition has been successful in many areas from October 1, 2016 through March 31, 2017 and should celebrate these accomplishments. These successes include:

- Engagement with several different sectors of the community to seek support/collaboration for coalition initiatives.
- Continued use of youth in coalition structure, activities, and policy change.
- Increase in dedication of resources to specific problems rather than the broader general ATOD. (11% decrease since last year).
- Developing new relationships and partnerships to address sustainability issues.
- Increased number of environmental strategies implemented.
- Strong advocacy efforts to create policy changes in multiple sectors.
- Coalition staff is taking advantage of available technical assistance.

Areas of Improvement

Despite the above successes the coalition continues to have opportunities for further development.

- Only 14% of the coalition's efforts used environmental strategies. This could be the result of documentation not being tracked by intended strategy i.e. advocacy efforts related to tobacco policy change under "changing policy". It is important for the coalition to reflect on its efforts in relation to community level behavior change strategies.
- Limited number of capacity building efforts for coalition members. Most capacity building is focused on staff.
- The coalition implemented one community change during this reporting period and additional efforts should be made to identify opportunities for new or modified work in the community that target specific local conditions particularly as the coalition has added the area of medicine abuse. Specifically as they relate to the changing environment in the community.
- Coalition accomplishments may be missing in the Reach system. This may include cash funding, community actions, community action and changes. Services provided may also be missing.